

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A towel presenting, washing and drying machine, comprising:

~~First and second a used towel roller and a clean towel roller spaced-apart rollers from each other~~
and each rotatable in a clockwise and counter-clockwise sense direction;

a bath having liquid inlet and outlet ports located between said rollers supporting a plurality of rod members for guiding a towel section in a meandering fashion in the bath;

means for cleaning the towel section in said bath;

at least one drying drum disposed outside said bath between said rollers;

at least one motor and transmission means coupled to said rollers and the drying drum, and

a controller for timely selectively operating each of said rollers and the drying drum, the controller being configured so that successive soiled sections of the towel are soaked and washed in an initial soaking and washing stage and a plurality of soiled sections of the towel are rinsed and dried in a subsequent rinsing and drying stage that is time independent of the soaking and washing stage.

Claim 2 (Original): The machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for cleaning the towel is at least one pair of cleaning brushes rotatable inside said bath and said transmission means is coupled to said brushes.

Claim 3 (Original): The machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising towel tensioning means for maintaining the towel tensioned during rotation of said rollers.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the towel passes between said brushes and said brushes rotate in opposite sense direction to each other.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the towel passes between said drying drums and said drying drums rotate in opposite sense direction to each other.

Claim 6 (Original): The machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a heater located inside said bath.

Claim 7 (Original): The machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a replenishable detergent container in liquid communication with said bath.

Claim 8 (Original): The machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inlet and outlet ports are fitted with electrically actuatable valves, controllable by said controller.

Claim 9 (Original): The machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bath further comprises liquid level sensors.

Claim 10 (Original): The machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising towel section length dispensing control associated with one of said rollers.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A method for automatically presenting a clean towel section for drying purposes and for washing and drying soiled towel sections in a towel presenting and washing machine, comprising;

providing a towel dispenser having first and second rotatable rollers being a used towel roller and a clean towel roller spaced-apart from each other, and a washing chamber;

presenting a user with a towel section by rolling said section off said first roller by rotation in a first sense direction;

transferring said section after use to said washing chamber containing cleaning liquid to be soaked and washed by the cleaning liquid;

transferring said soaked section to said second roller by rotating it in a first sense direction;

emptying said washing chamber from cleaning liquid and filling in rinsing liquid;

selectively rotating said second roller in an opposite sense direction to said first sense direction for rinsing said towel section in the washing chamber, and

drying said washed and rinsed towel section while rolling it up on said second roller for further use.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said rinsing and drying operation is effected at a selected hour of day [[and]] or night.

Claim13 (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the speed of rotation of the rollers during rinsing and drying is ~~smaller~~ lower than the speed of rotation during soaking and washing.

Claim 14 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said washing chamber is connected to a water and detergent source and a predetermined amount of liquid and detergent is selectively automatically introduced into the chamber.

Claim 15 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the washing chamber is emptied before rinsing and drying operations commence.

Claim 16 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said washing is effected by means of two oppositely rotatable brushes.

Claim 17 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said drying is effected by means of two oppositely rotatable drying drums.

Claim 18 (New): The system according to claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to:
during the washing stage:

fill the bath with water and detergent; and

rotate the rollers in a first direction to feed successive sections of soiled toweling through the bath for washing and for collecting the successive sections of soiled toweling after washing on the used towel roller; and

during the rinsing stage:

empty the bath of dirty water;

fill the bath with clean water; and

rotate the rollers in a second direction opposite to the first direction to remove the toweling from the used towel roller and feed the toweling through the bath for rinsing and subsequent drying.